

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION 1 2 3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) DOCKET NOS.: ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC.,) WS-01303A-02-0867 AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A) WS-01303A-02-0868 DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR) WS-01303A-02-0869 VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND) WS-01303A-02-0870 5 PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS) W-01303A-02-0908 RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR) 6 UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS SUN CITY WEST) 7 WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICTS.) PUBLIC COMMENTS) SPECIAL OPEN 8 AND RELATED MATTERS.) MEETING 9 10 At: Anthem, Arizona 11 November 5, 2003 Date: 12 NOV 2 5 2003 Filed: 13 14 15 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 16 17 18 19 ARIZONA REPORTING SERVICE, INC. Court Reporting 20 Suite Three 2627 North Third Street 21 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1126 22 COLETTE E. ROSS By: Prepared for: Certified Court Reporter 23 Certificate No. 50658 ACC 24 **CERTIFIED COPY** 25 (When in red)

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Τ		BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and		
2	numbered n	matter came on regularly to be heard before the		
3	Arizona C	orporation Commission, at the Anthem School		
4	Gymnasium	, 41020 North Freedom Way, Anthem, Arizona,		
5	commencin	g at 6:18 p.m. on the 5th of November, 2003.		
6				
7	BEFORE:	MARC SPITZER, Chairman		
8		WILLIAM A. MUNDELL, Commissioner JEFF HATCH-MILLER, Commissioner MIKE GLEASON, Commissioner KRISTIN K. MAYES, Commissioner		
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11		COLETTE E. ROSS		
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- 1 CHMN. SPITZER: Good evening. This is the
- 2 time set for the public comment in the matter of
- 3 Arizona-American Water Company, WS-01303A-02-0867, public
- 4 comment. I thank you all for being here this evening.
- Before I go any further, in light of the fact
- 6 that we are currently in a state of war, we have troops in
- 7 harms way, I would ask you all to rise and I would ask
- 8 Navy Veteran Mike Gleason to lead us in the Pledge of
- 9 Allegiance.
- 10 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
- 11 recited.)
- 12 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you all very much. My
- 13 name is Marc Spitzer. I am the Chairman of the Arizona
- 14 Corporation Commission. And all five Commissioners are
- 15 joining us this evening for a public comment session. We
- 16 will make a few introductory remarks but the main purpose
- 17 of this session is to hear from you.
- 18 The Corporation Commission is unlike many
- 19 other bodies in government. It is unlike city councils
- 20 and legislative bodies in that the Commission is
- 21 established under Article 15 of the State Constitution.
- 22 The Commission has a mandate under the constitution to
- 23 provide reliable utility service to the ratepayers of the
- 24 State of Arizona and, at the same time, to provide a fair
- 25 rate of return to the companies who provide those

- 1 services.
- 2 The Commission's deliberations in a rate
- 3 proceeding such as this are judicial in nature. And the
- 4 proceedings are very similar to those that would be in
- 5 Superior Court in Arizona or anywhere else throughout the
- 6 country.
- 7 There are parties. The company has filed an
- 8 application. It is a record that the company has sought
- 9 an increase in rates. The Utilities Division of
- 10 Commission Staff is a party to the proceeding. They have
- 11 sought a decrease in the rates. There are other entities
- 12 that have intervened. I would like to note Mr. Stephen
- 13 Ahearn is the director of the Residential Utility Consumer
- 14 Office.
- 15 Steve, if you could.
- 16 The Residential Consumer Office is not a part
- 17 of the Corporation Commission but is an entity that was
- 18 established in the 1980s as part of the executive branch
- 19 of state government. They have intervened in this
- 20 proceeding. I know Mr. Grimmelmann and some other folks
- 21 have intervened in this proceeding as well.
- The proceeding is before an Administrative Law
- 23 Judge of the Commission who is an attorney. It is like a
- 24 court proceeding. In this docket we have already taken
- 25 evidence from the intervenors and from the applicant and

- 1 from the Commission Staff that again is a party to the
- 2 proceeding.
- 3 Evidence is offered. In December there will
- 4 be a formal hearing at which point witnesses will be sworn
- 5 under oath. There will be direct examination. There will
- 6 be cross-examination. After the close of the evidence,
- 7 both written and oral testimony, the parties will file
- 8 briefs in the matter. The case will then go to the
- 9 Administrative Law Judge for a recommended opinion and
- 10 order.
- Once that recommended opinion and order is
- 12 issued by the judge, which could be an increase of rates,
- 13 it could be a decrease in rates or they could stay the
- 14 same, it would then go to the Commission, the five
- 15 Commissioners for final vote.
- The recommended opinion and order is not the
- 17 last word. The Commission can amend, accept or reject
- 18 the opinion of the Administrative Law Judge. So in many
- 19 respects, this Commission is fulfilling its duties as
- 20 judges of a case that is based on the evidence.
- 21 Public comment is an important part of the
- 22 record of this case. We have a court reporter who will be
- 23 transcribing everything that is said this evening. And
- 24 the transcript of this case will be part of the docket in
- 25 this case for the Commissioners to consider.

- 1 It is important note to that the public
- 2 comment is not evidence per se. The evidence is what is
- 3 submitted by the parties at the hearing and is part of the
- 4 formal record of this case. But since Commissioner
- 5 Mundell to my right became Chairman of the Commission in
- 6 2001, we have decided to go out throughout the state of
- 7 Arizona, not just downtown Phoenix, to have public comment
- 8 sessions to take input because we feel that's the best
- 9 form of government, is where there is participation.
- 10 Certainly we are very pleased to see the participation
- 11 here this evening.
- 12 And it is, I think, noteworthy when earlier
- 13 Mr. Gleason recited, and all of us in the audience
- 14 recited, the Pledge of Allegiance, our unique form of
- 15 government where your participation in the process is
- 16 relevant, important, and we, the elected officials, serve
- 17 at the pleasure of the people while our troops are
- 18 fighting and dying for it overseas and what the American
- 19 armed forces have done for 200 years.
- 20 So your public comments tonight are part of a
- 21 long and proud tradition of American democracy and we at
- 22 the Commission are very pleased to be a very small part of
- 23 that process.
- 24 Commissioner Mundell?
- 25 COM. MUNDELL: Good evening. My name is Bill

- 1 Mundell, one of your Commissioners. And I don't want to
- 2 take a lot of time because the Chairman explained the
- 3 process to you.
- 4 For those of you who haven't lived in Arizona
- 5 for a very long period of time, in California the
- 6 Corporation Commission is called the Public Utilities
- 7 Commission. In Illinois where I am originally from, it is
- 8 the Commerce Commission. And in other states it is the
- 9 Public Service Commission.
- 10 We are however unique in that we are one of
- 11 only seven states where the Commissioners are under the
- 12 State Constitution. We are not appointed by the executive
- 13 branch by the governor. We serve at the pleasure of the
- 14 people of the state of Arizona where it is a state-wide
- 15 office. We don't run in districts. We run just like the
- 16 governor or attorney general or secretary of state
- 17 throughout the state, every four years now.
- I would say that, as the Chairman indicated,
- 19 we have made it a priority to get out of our offices in
- 20 downtown Phoenix and go to the areas of the state, whether
- 21 it is Anthem or Tucson or Bisbee or Flagstaff, and go to
- 22 the areas that are impacted by our decisions.
- 23 And the purpose of this proceeding this
- 24 evening is to listen to your concerns and your issues,
- 25 think about them, and then utilize that, the information

- 1 we receive tonight, in making our decision when this
- 2 matter comes before us for a vote.
- And as the Chairman said, we are different
- 4 than the Board of Supervisors or the City Council in that
- 5 we have Administrative Law Judges, men and women who have
- 6 been to law school that conduct a hearing really like a
- 7 trial. People are put under oath, cross-examination. And
- 8 then a recommended order by the Administrative Law Judge
- 9 is issued. We review it and then determine whether or not
- 10 to affirm it, reverse it, modify it or send it back for
- 11 more evidence.
- So we are a hybrid of the other branches of
- 13 government, and the courts have consistently said that.
- 14 Again, we are independent in the State Constitution. And
- 15 we are a hybrid of the legislative branch of government
- 16 and the judicial branch and the executive branch.
- So I look forward to listening to your
- 18 comments this evening. I will be taking copious notes and
- 19 ask a few questions and take what I learn this evening
- 20 into consideration in helping me ask questions and
- 21 formulate questions at the time of the hearing.
- 22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Mr. Mundell.
- 24 The Chair recognizes Mr. Hatch-Miller.
- 25 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Good evening. Oh, sounds

- 1 loud.
- I am the guy with the two last names on the
- 3 Commission. And I am very thankful to be able to be here
- 4 tonight. It is obvious from the strength of numbers here
- 5 in the room that this community is vibrant and alive. It
- 6 is one of the newest communities in Arizona but obviously
- 7 also one of the strongest.
- 8 Our job as Commissioners, as I see it, is to
- 9 take an application before us and try to make sense of it,
- 10 for the State and for you as citizens. Anyone that has
- 11 business before the Commission is allowed to bring to us
- 12 their business and to apply for whatever it is that they
- 13 are requesting, in this particular case, a change in their
- 14 rates as a water company.
- The fact that they came and applied to us for
- 16 a change in rates does not determine what the rates are.
- 17 It is not a blank check. It is just an application that
- 18 starts the process.
- 19 The real process that the Commission engages
- 20 in is determining what it costs to provide water and
- 21 wastewater services to you. And once we determine what it
- 22 cost to provide those services to you, then we can
- 23 determine an appropriate rate based upon that cost, the
- 24 real cost of the service. And that's what we are moving
- 25 towards and that's what your testimony will help us

- 1 achieve.
- 2 Again, thank you for letting us come here
- 3 tonight and I welcome your comments.
- 4 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Commissioner
- 5 Hatch-Miller.
- 6 The Chair will recognize Commissioner Mike
- 7 Gleason.
- 8 COM. GLEASON: Good evening. It certainly is
- 9 a pleasure to see all these people. As I talked to some
- 10 of the people -- we have held these meetings where there
- 11 have been five people, and three of them were from the
- 12 County Board of Supervisors that they sent over. So we
- 13 appreciate what you are doing.
- And I won't wave this arm too much because I
- 15 got my flu shot this afternoon. But what I wanted to do
- 16 is describe to you a little bit about what a rate case is.
- 17 And a lot of what we do in a rate case is
- 18 somewhat mechanical. In other words, first we take the
- 19 company expenses. Now, they put in expenses and our Staff
- 20 reviews them, kicks some out, does whatsoever. But they
- 21 have certain --
- Thank you. That's a job of my wife, to stand
- 23 back there and wave at me.
- But letting me go through what we do is we
- 25 determine the expenses that the company has, you know, and

- 1 then our Staff looks at them. The next thing we do is we
- 2 determine how much value they have in the company. I
- 3 think I was looking at this. There is about nine million
- 4 bucks that you have here. And then the next step is we
- 5 determine the rate of return they get on there.
- Now, if you want to spend four or five
- 7 exciting hours, you should listen to a lawyer talking to
- 8 an accountant about how they determine that rate. I will
- 9 tell you, it is the best Saturday in the world.
- But, okay, now, after we do that, essentially
- 11 we have got a bucket and somehow we have to fill that
- 12 bucket with money. And whether it is five-eighths,
- 13 three-fourths meter, whether it is the hospital that pays
- 14 more, whether we have an inverted rate design, these are
- 15 the things that we determine, who puts the money in that
- 16 bucket. And that's what we are all about.
- 17 And my only other thought is your words do
- 18 count. This is not a done deal. We do listen to you.
- 19 Thanks a lot.
- 20 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Commissioner
- 21 Gleason.
- 22 As some of you may know, we have had a change
- 23 in the membership of the Commission. Commissioner Irvin
- 24 has resigned.
- 25 Commissioner Gleason knows that I am both a

- 1 lawyer and accountant. I guess even my wife says I am
- 2 boring so maybe he is right.
- 3 We have had a change in membership.
- 4 Commissioner Gleason resigned -- Commissioner Irvin. I am
- 5 sorry. You are still here. Commissioner Gleason is still
- 6 here. I will not hold it against him, his remarks on the
- 7 lawyer accountant stuff.
- But we are very pleased to have the newest
- 9 Commissioner who is already working very hard for the
- 10 ratepayers of Arizona. She has already immersed herself
- 11 in the proceedings before us. She will continue to work
- 12 very hard. We are very pleased with her performance and
- 13 we are very pleased to have this evening, the Chair will
- 14 recognize Commissioner Kris Mayes.
- 15 COM. MAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just
- 16 would like to say I am honored to be here. I have had a
- 17 chance to meet several of you already, and I am looking
- 18 forward to listening to you.
- I have only been here a little while but
- 20 someone who has been to these a lot more said this is the
- 21 best turnout they have ever seen for a Corporation
- 22 Commission field here. So you have lots to be proud of
- 23 for that. So let the fun begin.
- 24 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you very much,
- 25 Commissioner Mayes.

- 1 I will dispense with the normal order this
- 2 evening. Typically the intervenors and parties to the
- 3 case have their day in court, as it were, in the hearing
- 4 process. But Mr. Grimmelmann has asked to lead off and
- 5 make a brief presentation to us. He is an intervenor in
- 6 the proceeding. And at his request to speak at first and
- 7 set the tone for the evening, I will recognize Mr. Frank
- 8 Grimmelmann.
- 9 MR. GRIMMELMANN: Thank you very much. First
- 10 of all, I would like to recognize the phenomenal support
- 11 and turnout of this community, once again for themselves,
- 12 also Honey Bartsch and the RLAN group for having put the
- 13 support behind to get the word out.
- 14 And I would like to thank the Commission for
- 15 allowing myself as an intervenor and Carl Young as
- 16 community residents who are interested solely in the
- 17 benefit of this community to be able to make a few
- 18 comments tonight in public meeting. Thank you very much,
- 19 Commissioner Marc Spitzer.
- 20 My comments are as an Anthem resident and
- 21 chairman of the Country Club's Homeowner's Finance
- 22 Committee. We also served for the community council as
- 23 the advisor in the matter of the rate hearing. And
- 24 essentially it is for that reason that I also serve as an
- 25 intervenor.

- I am a layman. I am not a lawyer. Therefore
- 2 I have a lot of people in the community that I get along
- 3 with. And my objective is more to bring a finance
- 4 background and some background in healthcare regulatory
- 5 matters to bearing, being able to support and assess what
- 6 the proposal of the water company is before the
- 7 Commission.
- I appreciate the opportunity to briefly
- 9 comment from our community's perspective on the issues
- 10 related to, one, the proposed water company rate increase
- 11 and the context of the Commission and RUCO staff
- 12 recommendations; secondly, the appropriateness of both the
- 13 Commission and RUCO staff proposed adjustments; thirdly,
- 14 factors to consider in setting the appropriate rate of
- 15 return, and finally a recommended action for the
- 16 Commission's consideration on behalf of the community. I
- 17 plan to do this all in the time allotted and from a
- 18 community perspective.
- 19 First, I would like to summarize American
- 20 Arizona Water Company's rate submission and Staff's
- 21 position.
- 22 A year ago, the water company proposed an
- 23 increase of 32.45 percent for combined Anthem water and
- 24 sewer, on top of Anthem already having the highest rates
- 25 relative to other Arizona water districts. The finance

- 1 committee and the Residents' Local Action Network, RLAN,
- 2 have cooperated since the outset with RLAN's door-to-door
- 3 grassroots efforts securing 1200 petitioned signatures in
- 4 the spring of this year, communicating the community's
- 5 desire for a focused review by Staff in consideration by
- 6 the Commission.
- 7 The Commission and RUCO staff have delivered
- 8 on this request and the reviews are now complete. Both
- 9 staffs recommended denying the application based on
- 10 inadequate quality of the submission. They also provide
- 11 that, if the Commission elects not to deny the
- 12 application, that there be a decrease in the average rates
- 13 for water and sewer of 22.6 percent in terms of the
- 14 Commission Staff and 1.6 in terms of RUCO respectively.
- We recognize the Commissioners can accept
- 16 Staff's recommendation or that they can choose to ignore
- 17 them entirely.
- In terms of our community's position, there
- 19 are legitimate differences in the cost of Anthem water due
- 20 to, one, our state-of-the-art system for delivering water
- 21 from the Central Arizona Project, or CAP; secondly, higher
- 22 costs associated with meeting more current construction
- 23 codes given the newness of our community, and thirdly,
- 24 more recent construction costs reflecting higher
- 25 inflation. For these reasons we would expect to pay more.

- 1 I think the question is how much more.
- 2 However, when we look at a 32.45 percent
- 3 proposed increase in water and sewer during a period of
- 4 11.9 percent increase in inflation, this seems
- 5 inequitable. Requesting this increase over the highest
- 6 base rate in the area and one that is 123 percent higher
- 7 than the average of other area rates seems inappropriate.
- 8 The Commission and RUCO staff are appropriate
- 9 reviewers. They have the expertise, the depth, and the
- 10 breadth to assess a very complex rate regulatory structure
- 11 and to make an appropriate recommendation to the
- 12 Commission for consideration. They have looked at the
- 13 capacity, the capital, and the cost allocation to
- 14 establish the base rate and arrive at a current rate
- 15 employing the rate-setting methodology that has been used
- 16 in Arizona historically.
- We support both the Commission Staff's and
- 18 RUCO staff's proposed, one, denial of the application
- 19 based on its lack of quality or reduction in our rates
- 20 based on the thorough audit and review as recommended by
- 21 both staffs.
- 22 Granting any increase rewards the inaccurate
- 23 or potentially incompetent or derisive initial Citizen's
- 24 Water rate request and subsequent acceptance of these
- 25 rates by Arizona-American Water Company at the time of

- 1 their acquisition of the Citizen's company. Also any such
- 2 increase is not warranted nor supported by analysis.
- In terms of the adjustments that Staff has
- 4 recommended, Staff's major recommendations can be grouped
- 5 into three major areas: One, the eliminated duplicate
- 6 inflation recovery requested through disallowing current
- 7 replacement costs valuation, as you refer to RCND
- 8 valuation of assets, versus the use of the historical
- 9 basis of purchase cost of those assets, and allowed
- 10 proposed return on equity to cover this inflation to avoid
- 11 double counting.
- 12 They eliminated recovery of the water company
- 13 acquisition premium for its purchase of the Citizen's
- 14 Water Company, a wholly inappropriate request, given no
- 15 improvement in distribution efficiency or value added
- 16 other than paying a premium to acquire assets that were
- 17 producing a public good. They applied actual real water
- 18 company -- they applied the actual real cost of the
- 19 Arizona-American Water Company instead of estimated and/or
- 20 Citizen's Water Company historical cost to achieve a
- 21 consistent basis.
- In my formal surrebuttal testimony, my
- 23 rationale fully sets forth to support Staff's proposed
- 24 adjustments. In a word, the quality of the application is
- 25 appalling and, when proper state methodology is applied,

- 1 the conclusion is straightforward.
- 2 Just a word on the rate of return. That seems
- 3 to be the most contentious thing in the surrebuttal
- 4 presently.
- 5 Staff recommended the use of CAPM, for
- 6 developing an appropriate rate of return. CAPM is the
- 7 accepted foundation of modern capital market theory and
- 8 pragmatically used daily in the markets, including things
- 9 like Black Shoals valuations and other vehicles for
- 10 pricing real market assets.
- 11 CAPM is a logical, appropriate foundation for
- 12 the Arizona rate setting. In a low inflation environment,
- 13 the return of equity required to attract market capital is
- 14 lower, as is total return, for the following reasons:
- 15 One, inflation is the major component
- 16 affecting the nominal rate of return. Secondly, public
- 17 utilities are legal monopolies with relatively stable
- 18 income, therefore requiring a lower true rate of return,
- 19 assuming good management.
- Therefore, we support Staff's application of
- 21 Arizona methodology for determining ROE and rates they
- 22 suggest in promulgating the water rate. The rationale
- 23 fully supporting this is in my surrebuttal testimony.
- In conclusion, I am not paid to be here. I am
- 25 simply a resident who gives a damn. The reality is the

- 1 interest we have in this community is in setting the
- 2 foundation for the future, not only for the adults but the
- 3 children.
- Anthem is diverse, it is a growing community
- 5 that consists of those starting out trying to make ends
- 6 meet to those on a fixed income. The appearance of
- 7 affluence can be deceptive.
- 8 Del Webb, based on detailed audits, have been
- 9 responsible citizens, having transferred appropriate
- 10 assets to meet the capacity needs at a fair market price.
- 11 Also the audits supported the fact that they have
- 12 underwritten potential excess capacity due to downsizing
- 13 the number of home units in the community from the
- 14 original plan by direct equity contributions that
- 15 otherwise would have been borne by Anthem residents.
- I think it is worth it to acknowledge the
- 17 positive along with comments sometimes on the negative.
- 18 We realize the Commission is bound by established
- 19 methodology in setting rates to allow a fair return. We
- 20 are willing to pay our fair share. But it would be a
- 21 travesty to grant windfall not supported by established
- 22 methodologies.
- 23 Further, we remain appalled by the
- 24 application's quality and resulting cost of ratepayers for
- 25 Staff time to unravel the mess in putting together an

- 1 application that did not follow clearly stated
- 2 methodology.
- 3 We urge the Commission to consider and support
- 4 the Staff recommendation in rendering its final decision
- 5 on our community's rates. Please support your
- 6 constituency by making the right decision.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 CHMN. SPITZER: Mr. Grimmelmann, perhaps you
- 9 should make a career in seeking public office.
- 10 Do we have any questions?
- 11 Thank you very much, Frank. Appreciate it.
- 12 Honey Bartsch?
- MS. BARTSCH: Good evening. I'm trying to not
- 14 sound too hoarse but I was greeting everyone.
- 15 First of all, I want to thank you for coming
- 16 up to Anthem. In the brief three years that we have
- 17 resided here in Arizona we find sometimes the meetings for
- 18 public hearings aren't necessarily in our backyard. And
- 19 we are a large community. And we have a large section of
- 20 young families, young adults starting out, retirees and
- 21 all the empty nesters. And they are working and running
- 22 other places. And sometimes a 6:00 meeting downtown is
- 23 not necessarily convenient. So I thank you on behalf of
- 24 all of us for coming down here because this gives us a
- 25 chance to express ourselves and to have a shot.

- I also want to take a moment to thank my other
- 2 neighbors and the people who live here in Anthem. You
- 3 guys have been splendid. I personally want to thank you
- 4 from the bottom of my heart. You have proven to me and
- 5 everyone in the community, and we are a community and
- 6 whether we are incorporated or unincorporated doesn't make
- 7 any difference, we are the neighborhood and I thank you
- 8 for being here tonight. Thank you very much.
- 9 And I want to take a moment to thank Frank.
- 10 Your report was so intense. And I know how much work you
- 11 put into it. And many of us wouldn't have begun to tackle
- 12 the finances involved. So thank you very much taking the
- 13 time to look at the financing and preparing the summary.
- 14 Thank you again.
- I think what I want to say to the Commission
- 16 is I agree you have been given a mandate. And I put my
- 17 trust, I put the trust of everybody in this audience into
- 18 your hands. You know by your definition as to what you
- 19 must do, and we trust that you will do a very capable job.
- We only ask that you look upon it in a very
- 21 fair and equitable manner. We, many of us, came in, it
- 22 was Citizen's Water. And then it was bought by
- 23 Arizona-American.
- 24 Having come out of the corporate world, I know
- 25 what due diligence is. I know and feel a good deal of

- 1 their argument was possibly a lack of due diligence on
- 2 their part. We all, as corporations, like to be
- 3 profitable.
- I wasn't in the utility industry, but I was in
- 5 banking which is also a regulated industry. And we are
- 6 responsible to look at the reviews of the financials and
- 7 make the appropriate decisions and pose the appropriate
- 8 questions. We are hoping that that mandate will be
- 9 handled most competently by you.
- 10 I will repeat as Frank did. We have a young
- 11 community. And in many instances, the young families
- 12 can't even afford the smallest, minute amount of increases
- 13 to their taxes, they run that close of budget. I think if
- 14 the state continues to grow and support the communities
- 15 coming in, they have to keep in mind that, even though
- 16 there is inflation, we too as the consumers, we too as
- 17 residents in Arizona are also limited by what our income
- 18 is able to provide.
- I would certainly hope that the State would
- 20 not be short sided to cause people to leave the state
- 21 because we can't afford to live here. And, again, I trust
- 22 the Commission will take that into account as well.
- 23 Again, thank you so very, very much. It fills
- 24 my heart with great pride to be here as an Anthem
- 25 resident. And thank you very much for giving me a moment

- 1 to talk.
- 2 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you very much,
- 3 Mrs. Bartsch. The Chair will recognize Carl Young.
- 4 MR. YOUNG: Honey, thank you. I thank all the
- 5 members for their participation. And indeed I added to
- 6 the help and formation of it. Then I retired from it. So
- 7 I am appearing just as Carl Young, a resident of Anthem.
- I am also listed as an intervenor. I don't
- 9 plan on offering testimony at the hearing. I also lack
- 10 the technical expertise to provide information as Frank
- 11 has. I am very happy Frank has been a part of this. He
- 12 brings something to the floor that many of us, perhaps
- 13 most of us, don't have to offer.
- So my reason for appearing is not to provide
- 15 technical information. It is to provide the other half
- 16 which isn't what people like to hear, and that's the
- 17 emotional side of the issue. And, basically, I am going
- 18 to depart from my written remarks because they were nasty,
- 19 which is pretty typical of what my remarks are, and just
- 20 provide some background.
- 21 I think there is an issue here of honesty.
- 22 think that Arizona-American is asking for a rate increase
- 23 that is inflated. It is inflated for the purpose of
- 24 getting the Commission to provide a decrease from what
- 25 they are asking for but an increase above what they are

- 1 entitled to.
- 2 Again, I cannot read the testimony. I cannot
- 3 read what the testimony and the rebuttal and the
- 4 surrebuttal is with the same expertise as you. But I have
- 5 read them as they relate to Anthem. And I can tell you
- 6 that there is a lot of wool being pulled over somebody's
- 7 eyes. Okay. That's with the rate increase.
- 8 We have something new that doesn't relate to
- 9 the rate increase. I understand that it goes to the issue
- 10 of honesty. This is the filter that came out of my RO
- 11 system. It is brown. It is the seventh filter that has
- 12 been in my system. This is the first one that came out
- 13 brown.
- 14 So I call your attention to this recent
- 15 episode of describing by Arizona-American of discolored
- 16 and malodorous water as first a flushing of hydrants, then
- 17 we were told it was a short-term problem and then we were
- 18 told it was an annual problem with algae out of the
- 19 Colorado River. In four seasons being here, this is the
- 20 first occasion that I have seen this occur. This is the
- 21 first filter that has come out brown.
- I have to question whether the next rate
- 23 increase request, which you will receive next November
- 24 because that's the time when they can again apply, and
- 25 they will apply again, you will see an increase most

- 1 likely for the chemical costs to treat the water that is
- 2 now dirty. And my question is whether or not this is a
- 3 natural event. Now, I know what that sounds like and I am
- 4 not going to make an open accusation, but I have to wonder
- 5 what is going on with the water.
- 6 And then there is the process of accepting no
- 7 business costs to the company, bypassing to customers the
- 8 bills for setting up booths at community events, mailings,
- 9 and even the meetings that they set up. We as customers
- 10 have to pay for those things. It is to pay to hear us
- 11 talk to ourselves. That doesn't make a lot of sense.
- Why are investors without risk? Why are they
- 13 guaranteed a bountiful return despite the wastefulness and
- 14 incompetence of a company? That makes no sense.
- 15 American doesn't increase an -- deserve an
- 16 increase. I know it is your role -- it is not your role
- 17 to punish them for grief. But the Commission should
- 18 sanction them by their behaviors by whatever methods the
- 19 law allows. And I am dealing with you on moral grounds.
- 20 I know you must make a business decision, but I am
- 21 appealing to you to include integrity and morality in that
- 22 decision. I for one have had enough of Enrons, enough of
- 23 Jim Irvins, enough greed-seeking oafs. I am seeking that
- 24 the ACC join me in holding Arizona-American liable for
- 25 honesty.

- 1 Thank you.
- CHMN. SPITZER: The Chair will recognize
- 3 Commissioner Gleason for a comment.
- 4 COM. GLEASON: Yes, sir. Would you be willing
- 5 to surrender that thing to Arizona-American? I think if
- 6 we pass it to Arizona-American we can probably get some
- 7 information out of it. Thank you.
- MR. YOUNG: Thank you.
- 9 COM. GLEASON: I neglected one other thing.
- 10 My advisor is sitting up here. Stand up, Jody. This is
- 11 Jody Jerich. Her father and mother live out here. So she
- 12 is out to visit them. Thank you.
- 13 A VOICE: Would you like a thousand more of
- 14 those filters?
- 15 CHMN. SPITZER: The Chair will recognize
- 16 Janice Samar.
- 17 MS. SAMAR: Hello. Thank you, Commissioners.
- I have two questions that I am interested in.
- 19 And the first is: Has the company, the Arizona-American
- 20 Water Company, ever spelled out how they arrived at the
- 21 amounts that they did? Was it, as Frank asked, according
- 22 to methodologies that were in fact used for past years or
- 23 did they just invent something, as Carl may have alluded
- 24 to, Enron ease?
- The other thing I want to do is ask the

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- 1 Commission: We have water meters out here. And our water
- 2 rates are based on how much, they are not the rates, but
- 3 how much we pay is based on how much water passes through
- 4 that meter. We are told that our wastewater amounts are
- 5 also based upon what clean water comes through those
- 6 meters.
- 7 Now, every one of us that moved out here in
- 8 Anthem were told that we had to plant certain numbers of
- 9 things in our yard, trees, shrubbery, little plants. And
- 10 we have to water them all the time, but they are on
- 11 meters -- I mean they are on timers.
- 12 Now, a lot of that water then that we are
- 13 being charged for that comes in, which is natural, does
- 14 not go back out to the sewer system. Why don't we have
- 15 meters to accurately reflect how much is going out of our
- 16 homes? Because whatever rates we are paying for
- 17 wastewater do not reflect water that is coming in. And I
- 18 wish that you would ask the company those questions.
- 19 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you very much.
- 20 Jerry Griven is recognized.
- 21 MR. GRIVEN: I will pass.
- 22 CHMN. SPITZER: Mr. Griven passes.
- The Chair will recognize Mr. Ray Kelly.
- MR. KELLY: I will pass.
- 25 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Mr. Kelly.

- 1 The Chair will recognize Mr. Jeff Black.
- COM. MUNDELL: Mr. Chairman, are the people
- 3 that passed, could you just indicate whether they support
- 4 what their position is? They may not have wanted to
- 5 speak.
- 6 CHMN. SPITZER: Okay. Thank you,
- 7 Commissioner.
- 8 Mr. Griven, it is about profits, a
- 9 hundred percent more than other areas being considered.
- 10 And there is no block to say oppose or support. Mr. Kelly
- 11 just said ready.
- 12 So thank you.
- 13 Mr. Black? He left, okay. Thank you.
- 14 Tony DeHerrera? Tony DeHerrera?
- 15 COM. MUNDELL: The other thing, maybe saying
- 16 who is on deck so they can be ready to go.
- 17 CHMN. SPITZER: Good idea.
- 18 Martha Goad is next.
- MR. DeHERRERA: Good evening, Commissioners.
- 20 Most everything I have to say to you people has already
- 21 been said. I would like to invite you people to come out
- 22 to do a load of wash in my washing machine. My clothes --
- CHMN. SPITZER: Mr. DeHerrera, I think some
- 24 people are having trouble hearing you.
- MR. DeHERRERA: My clothes, after coming out

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- 1 of that washing machine, smell worse than when they went
- 2 in. Me and my wife are paying about 35 to 38 percent more
- 3 for water and sewer than we were in Phoenix for water,
- 4 sewer and streets.
- 5 And that's about all I have to say. Thank you
- 6 very much.
- 7 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- 8 MS. GOAD: Hello. I am Martha Goad. And I
- 9 have lived in Anthem now for about three and a half years.
- 10 I have lived in Arizona, though, for 30 years.
- 11 And I wanted to tell you that the place I
- 12 lived before, my rates here for the basic service are
- 13 almost exactly the same as it was in the other cities but
- 14 the other cities included water, sewer, and trash pickup.
- 15 So I feel that, you know, something is not correct on the
- 16 calculations of the basic service alone, much less the
- 17 regular service.
- And my husband and I are both very, very water
- 19 conscious. We come from Colorado, which about 30 years
- 20 ago was very water conscious. We don't have a pool. We
- 21 don't have a lawn. But yet our water bill is extremely
- 22 high compared to other locations that we have lived in the
- 23 Valley. And I would really appreciate your commitment to
- 24 make sure that it is reasonable and it is rational. And
- 25 we hope to retire here and live a very good life, but that

- 1 would be on a fixed income so it has to be reasonable
- 2 water rates.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 CHMN. SPITZER: Jim Junker?
- 5 Commissioner Hatch-Miller, you wish to say
- 6 something?
- 7 COM. HATCH-MILLER: No.
- 8 CHMN. SPITZER: Jim Junker. And then after,
- 9 Monica Bandelier or Bandelier.
- 10 MR. JUNKER: I want to first thank you for
- 11 taking the time to meet with us here tonight. My wife and
- 12 I lived in four other homes in Scottsdale before we moved
- 13 to Anthem.
- 14 And I don't have the same command of the
- 15 statistics and facts that the intervenors, that some of
- 16 the other speakers have tonight, but it seems to me that
- 17 this is an issue that involves common sense as a starting
- 18 point.
- 19 The former homes that my wife and I lived in
- 20 prior to moving to Anthem, the rates included water,
- 21 sewer, and garbage pickup. Like the speaker before me,
- 22 the rates were considerably lower than what they are in
- 23 Anthem.
- 24 When we first moved to Anthem and started
- 25 getting water bills, my wife and I assumed we had a water

- 1 leak. We looked at that issue first. When that was
- 2 eliminated as a cause of the water rates, we started doing
- 3 some other research.
- 4 Like I mentioned, I don't have the command of
- 5 the facts and statistics of other speakers, but the
- 6 intervenors that first spoke, we indicated to the
- 7 Commission that the water district here is charging
- 8 123 percent more than average of other water districts.
- 9 That's a starting base. Now they are asking for a 32 or
- 10 33 percent rate increase.
- Just common sense would tell you if
- 12 Arizona-American is as efficient as other water districts,
- 13 the rate increase is inappropriate. The only logical
- 14 explanation is that Arizona-American is inefficient or
- 15 incompetent or both.
- This is an exploding community. This
- 17 community is exploding. Within several years it is going
- 18 to be the size of Flagstaff, 50 or 60,000 people or more.
- 19 It would appear that what Arizona-American is trying to do
- 20 is pass the cost of the infrastructure and the product
- 21 that they sell to the consumers here to a small base of
- 22 residents. Well, that base, Ladies and Gentlemen and the
- 23 Commission, is going to grow dramatically in the next five
- 24 or six years. The cost per resident relating to the
- 25 infrastructure is going to decrease down substantially

- 1 because of the explosion of the population.
- When the water company was first built, it
- 3 cost X number of dollars. We had a limited population
- 4 base at that time and it was very expensive per person.
- 5 But as this population grows, the cost per person will go
- 6 down proportionately. Arizona-American is asking for a
- 7 huge increase now to line their pockets. The increase
- 8 request is not appropriate. I would join in the
- 9 intervenors and ask that the request for increase not only
- 10 be turned down but that the water rates be decreased.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- While Monica Bandelier is making her way up,
- 14 Commissioner Mayes.
- 15 COM. MAYES: Mr. Junker, can I ask you a quick
- 16 question? Do you have some of the same concerns as some
- 17 other folks about the quality of the water and the quality
- 18 of the customer service?
- MR. JUNKER: Well, one point I neglected to
- 20 raise -- let me answer your question first. The, I guess
- 21 the quality of water is not what we experienced when we
- 22 were in Phoenix and in Scottsdale. It just doesn't taste
- 23 as good. And we have an RO system.
- The point I neglected to add, or add, was we
- 25 live in Anthem Country Club. And so I am speaking from my

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- 1 perspective as a country club partner rather than a park
- 2 side member. And I can tell you that one charge that
- 3 country club members sustain is an additional \$13 fee that
- 4 park side residents don't.
- 5 And the reason for this is, and correct me if
- 6 I am wrong, but the waterline to homes in park side, I
- 7 believe, is a five-inch instrument in diameter where in
- 8 the country club it is one-inch diameter.
- Now, the need apparently for the greater.
- 10 diameter water hose is because of the sprinkler systems
- 11 that are in the Anthem homes where they are not present in
- 12 the park side homes.
- 13 \$13 a month for the additional size of
- 14 waterline is incredible. Several months ago I went on a
- 15 website and I was looking at other water district rates.
- 16 And other water districts were charging per month anywhere
- 17 from 75 cents to \$1.50 per month increase for a water line
- 18 going from five-eighths to one inch. Arizona-American
- 19 wanted \$13 a month. That's about 1500 percent. That's
- 20 absurd.
- 21 Thank you.
- 22 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you very much.
- 23 Monica?
- MS. BANDELIER: Thank you. I am here as a
- 25 consumer as well as a resident. The reason that I do not

- 1 approve of the rate increase, I already feel I am paying
- 2 more in the base minimum.
- 3 Like the people before me, I did move from the
- 4 City of Scottsdale, but had City of Phoenix water. Not
- 5 only did it include trash, but you have to consider I paid
- 6 \$38 a month, had 2000 square feet of grass, about 25 trees
- 7 on the property. Here I have zero grass and I have three
- 8 trees, one, two, three, for \$70.
- 9 The other reason I know I am paying more than
- 10 I am using, my parents came to stay with me for a month in
- 11 March. That increased showers by two a day. The
- 12 dishwasher ran every day rather than seven to ten days.
- 13 And laundry increased possibly six days a week. My water
- 14 bill went up \$4, that's all. That tells me my \$70 I am
- 15 already paying I am not using.
- Thank you.
- 17 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- The Chair will recognize Mr. Bill Gilbert for
- 19 an important matter that is not directly related. But you
- 20 can talk about the case too, if you wish.
- MR. GILBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 22 Appreciate your time very much.
- I got a letter from the Jacobs Company, that
- 24 is doing an I-17 widening study, a couple days ago. And I
- 25 hardly have time to make enough copies for everyone here.

- 1 I probably would have underestimated by a lot. So I asked
- 2 the Chairman for this brief opportunity to speak before
- 3 you to tell you what I know about it and to tell you where
- 4 you can go to get more information. And that's the reason
- 5 I am up here tonight. I think everyone else has already
- 6 beat me to the punch on the liquidity here.
- 7 The second issue that we have here, and just
- 8 about as important as the water, is our highway. And we
- 9 also suffer through it on weekends. We suffer through it
- 10 at rush hour. And we suffer through it if there is an
- 11 accident. So I have been trying to stay close to this.
- I attended a meeting last year about the
- 13 expansion, who I know some of you were there, many not.
- 14 But I thought I would just offer this.
- 15 Since I am on their mailing list, I get these
- 16 mailings. And I am going to be posting the information
- 17 that they have sent to me on a website that I put up that
- 18 most of you or many of you have already been to called --
- 19 well, I won't tell you get a piece of paper and write this
- 20 down and send it to your neighbors too.
- Basically, this new highway expansion won't be
- 22 finished for probably five years, if then. The plan is
- 23 for them to make the highway as wide as it is at Bell Road
- 24 all the way to New River. This will help everyone. It
- 25 will be an HOV lane. They are going to expand the highway

- 1 at Carefree Highway. They will probably put two more
- 2 interchanges between Carefree Highway and the Happy Valley
- 3 Road exit.
- We have already done a good bit here to help
- 5 alleviate traffic jams but it certainly doesn't help down
- 6 here. So here is the address where you can go. I have
- 7 got about half a dozen pages from the Jacobs Engineering
- 8 and AZDOT so I am going to put thees on the website. It
- 9 is really simply daisymountaincrossroads, all one word,
- 10 daisymountaincrossroads dot org.
- 11 You will find a lot of stuff up there about
- 12 the water company. We will keep it posted about the
- 13 results of what the Commission may rule on. And there is
- 14 a lot of comments from Frank that he wasn't able to bring
- 15 to the floor today. And there is a lot of information
- 16 about the water companies that have been privatized in the
- 17 past and what a disaster that has been. So we are very
- 18 much with you on all of this and I hope that you will find
- 19 the I-17 information useful to you in the future.
- Thank you very much.
- 21 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Mr. Gilbert.
- The Chair will recognize David Harden.
- MR. HARDEN: Good evening. Thank you for
- 24 allowing us to be here. I submitted a page of written
- 25 questions with my request to speak, but in the absence of

- 1 having those before me, a few questions I have with me
- 2 that bear looking at is the concern about the process by
- 3 which American Water will utilize the rate increase for
- 4 increasing the benefits and the quality of service to the
- 5 community.
- Another question deals with what is in the
- 7 Commission's purview to analyze the rate increase in
- 8 relation to the producer price and consumer price indexes.
- And, also, concerning Del Webb's submission of
- 10 their planned community, the community as it was first
- 11 established, have there been any studies done in relation
- 12 to this rate increase to identify whether or not Del
- 13 Webb's application was substandard, or otherwise have the
- 14 conditions changed so drastically to require such a large
- 15 increase in the water rates?
- 16 And another question that I had deals with the
- 17 recent merger of Arizona-American Water with American
- 18 Water Works and I can't remember the name of the other
- 19 company, but it is a German company for public utilities,
- 20 whether there is any correlation with the rate increase
- 21 proposal and the recent merger. And specifically, the
- 22 board, the Commission's opinion by the Administrative Law
- 23 Judge back in August of 2002, the Staff had made several
- 24 proposals and conditions to the Staff of American Water,
- 25 which I won't go into real detail, but some concern that

- 1 Arizona-American release their books for review. They
- 2 apparently had determined that was not a necessary item or
- 3 condition for the merger request. And also they had
- 4 stated in the conditions of a future rate proceeding that
- 5 the merger would not be a condition on which the rates
- 6 would be increased. So I would ask the board to at least
- 7 look into those issues in the future when they have their
- 8 hearing in December.
- 9 And the last question is: When is the
- 10 deadline for the public to submit written comments and
- 11 written questions before the hearing in December?
- 12 CHMN. SPITZER: Mr. Harden, I will respond to
- 13 the questions. I think it is appropriate to do so.
- And there are many rules that govern the
- 15 conduct of the Commissioners in terms of an exparte rule.
- 16 We don't meet with companies or people who appear in front
- 17 of us unless it has been noticed and at a public forum in
- 18 which everyone can attend. There are various other rules.
- 19 And I point out that all five Commissioners present now
- 20 are very studious and serious about following the rules.
- 21 There is another rule that really goes to the
- 22 heart of the judicial process that are articulated, which
- 23 is not to address a matter that is likely to come before
- 24 us as the judge. It would be unfair and prejudicial to
- 25 decide on the merits. And some of the questions go to the

- 1 merits of the case. And that is going to be what the
- 2 parties, including Mr. Grimmelmann and others, will be,
- 3 have already, and the Staff and RUCO, have already
- 4 propounded questions and submitted testimony on those
- 5 precise points.
- 6 So our response on those issues would not be
- 7 appropriate. It would be violative of the judicial,
- 8 non -- not prejudging the case.
- 9 I will say that the application for an
- 10 increase was filed on November 25th, 2002. And you asked
- 11 what is the deadline for Anthem residents to file his or
- 12 her public opinion and written questions to the Commission
- 13 concerning the proposed rate request.
- 14 Public comment includes this evening's session
- 15 in which everything said is being transcribed by the court
- 16 reporter and entered into the record. In addition, folks
- 17 may e-mail the Commission and/or website at
- 18 www.cc.state.az.us. And any search engine will call up
- 19 the Commission. You can e-mail Commissioners individually
- 20 as well from that forum. And those are typically received
- 21 by us, reviewed and then we file those in the docket. So
- 22 they become of public record and a part of the docket in
- 23 the case. And that is an appropriate way of communicating
- 24 with the Commission.
- There is no deadline to submit those

- 1 materials. Mr. Grimmelmann and others have intervened,
- 2 Mr. Ahearn representing RUCO. And I won't speak for the
- 3 Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge
- 4 decides whether to let parties intervene in the
- 5 proceedings, but the rule is leave to intervene is freely
- 6 granted.
- 7 Now, probably if you show up the day of the
- 8 hearing and you wish to intervene, it might unfairly
- 9 prejudice the parties who intervened earlier. That is
- 10 another matter. Mr. Grimmelmann, or someone who is an
- 11 intervenor, you may find it appropriate to communicate
- 12 with him if you have questions that you wish to be
- 13 propounded to some of the witnesses at the hearing.
- 14 So there are many avenues for citizens, not
- 15 just this evening, but throughout the entire course of our
- 16 deliberations, including attending the open meeting that
- 17 would be scheduled for ultimate deliberation of this case.
- I hope that's satisfactory.
- 19 MR. HARDEN: Yes, it is. I must say your
- 20 website is very informative. It provides a lot of
- 21 information for everybody to look at, the goals. I
- 22 suggest you all take a look at it. It will provide all
- 23 the helpful information about the rate increase as well.
- 24 Thank you very much.
- 25 CHMN. SPITZER: We have one last slip of

- 1 someone who neglected a name but said they wished to
- 2 speak. And I don't want to give out an address but
- 3 someone on West Morse Court. Did someone fill out a slip
- 4 from West Morse Court who wishes to speak?
- 5 We have a number of individuals who submitted
- 6 slips in opposition to the rate increase who did not wish
- 7 to speak. And if you do wish to speak, you changed your
- 8 mind, you may feel free to do so. But I wanted to
- 9 recognize the individuals who did take the time to fill
- 10 out the slip.
- 11 Larry Evans?
- MR. EVANS: Pass.
- 13 CHMN. SPITZER: Willine Evans?
- MS. EVANS: Pass.
- 15 CHMN. SPITZER: Charles Carlise?
- 16 David Speranza?
- 17 A VOICE: Pass.
- 18 CHMN. SPITZER: Al Bakas?
- 19 Alan Stuart?
- 20 Mary Hobin?
- MS. HOBIN: Pass.
- 22 CHMN. SPITZER: And that completes the list of
- 23 slips. If there is anyone who wishes to come forward, for
- 24 the court reporter to transcribe accurately, we do need a
- 25 written slip to be filled out, but if someone wishes to

- 1 come forward, come forward to the --
- 2 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for a second opportunity
- 3 to speak. In regard to the filter that Mr. Gleason now
- 4 has, I had spoken to Arizona-American, with several
- 5 representatives. And they assured me that the health
- 6 department had reviewed the quality of the water.
- 7 Not only is it a current concern for all of us
- 8 but it was a past concern and will certainly be a future
- 9 concern. I think we as a community would like some
- 10 validation that the department of health and/or any other
- 11 agency that controls safety, consumption of water, that we
- 12 might be able to see published in the paper or on a
- 13 website some validation that what we are consuming is good
- 14 for us. Because, as I said, we all have to have some
- 15 contact with water whether it is internally or externally.
- 16 And I for one do not have a comfort level.
- 17 So thank you again for allowing me to mention
- 18 that.
- 19 CHMN. SPITZER: The Chair will recognize
- 20 Commissioner Mayes regarding the water quality.
- 21 COM. MAYES: To that point, I just want to let
- 22 you know that we will be contacting the appropriate folks
- 23 to -- I think maybe ADEQ should be contacted and the
- 24 Department of Health. But we appreciate that.
- 25 COM. MUNDELL: Just to follow up on that,

- 1 again this is Commissioner Mundell, we as a routine
- 2 provision in our orders now, whenever we review a rate
- 3 case and make a determination on a rate case, we always
- 4 include a provision in the order that the company is in
- 5 compliance with the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water
- 6 Acts. That is something that we started doing.
- 7 And we don't have primary jurisdiction over
- 8 that. As Commissioner Mayes said, the Department of
- 9 Environmental Quality does. But we have coordinated our
- 10 efforts. And again that's one of the benefits of these
- 11 public comments, is that we hear things that we might not
- 12 otherwise know about and we couldn't take action on.
- So, as she said, we will notify DEQ of your
- 14 concerns and then also when this matter is ultimately
- 15 decided up, down sideways, whatever we do, there is a
- 16 provision that we put in there requiring them to be in
- 17 compliance with the safe, clean water drinking acts.
- 18 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- 19 Richard Lindner?
- 20 MR. LINDNER: Thank you. I wanted to join
- 21 the, my fellow residents here in Anthem and thank you for
- 22 letting us all comment.
- I experienced something with Arizona Water,
- 24 Arizona-American Water Company initially, upon becoming a
- 25 resident that I don't know if anyone else has.

- 1 We were not present when the house, when our
- 2 house closed the first part of May. We were out of town
- 3 in Colorado preparing to move down here.
- 4 As per the instructions through Del Webb and
- 5 Anthem, we contacted all the utility companies, gave them
- 6 billing information, address, mailing address and so
- 7 forth. Arizona Water proceeded, after we had closed on
- 8 the house the first of May, by about the third or fourth
- 9 day, to shut off the water to the house with no notice
- 10 whatsoever, no phone call.
- 11 As it turned out, my wife arrived here before
- 12 I did with her sister to be moving into the house. And
- 13 she called me and said: Do you know the water has been
- 14 shut off at the house?
- I said: Are you sure? It was on when the
- 16 customer care representative for Anthem went through.
- We weren't here. We are not, we were not able
- 18 to be here for that. He assured me that everything was
- 19 set.
- So I got an 800 number. This was about 10:00
- 21 at night. I got an 800 number and called them. And the
- 22 first thing the lady told me, she is in Indiana. She said
- 23 we manage water companies in 22 states.
- I don't know if anybody is aware of that, that
- 25 Arizona-American Water Company is that kind of a monopoly,

- 1 or that kind of megalopoly, excuse me.
- The person that I spoke to could not have been
- 3 ruder as far as customer service. She said: I am sorry,
- 4 we will have to contact somebody. She said: The reason
- 5 your water has been shut off is because after the third or
- 6 fourth day Anthem, as the developer, will no longer pay
- 7 for the water, and, if you are, if you have not made
- 8 arrangements to sign -- I said I did that. I said I have
- 9 a customer service number. I said we did make a, you
- 10 know, give all the information necessary.
- 11 Well, it took until the next morning to get
- 12 the water turned back on. So I was, needless to say,
- 13 pretty upset about it. I called and asked to speak to one
- 14 of their supervisors.
- I said: We just moved down here. We have no
- 16 landscaping on this property. What would you have done if
- 17 I had been out of town and I had \$15,000 worth of
- 18 landscape here in the middle of July and the water had
- 19 been off for a week? I said I would be suing something.
- 20 She said: That's your problem. She said: We
- 21 don't have, we don't bear any responsibility for that
- 22 situation.
- So I said: Well, do you have any sort of a
- 24 customer service department, any sort of a complaint
- 25 department, any department where somebody takes care of

- 1 this kind of problem?
- 2 She said: No. We have a local representative
- 3 out there that turns the water on and off. She said: If
- 4 you have any comments or questions, you have to call the
- 5 800 number and get somebody in Indiana.
- I don't know if anybody had that sort of
- 7 dealing with them. But my first impression is they are a
- 8 crappy company when it comes to taking care of their
- 9 customers.
- 10 CHMN. SPITZER: I would point out that the
- 11 issue of water quality, as Commissioner Mundell pointed
- 12 out, is one where the Commission shares jurisdiction with
- 13 the state and county governments.
- 14 The issue of customer service and billing is
- 15 exclusively within the domain of the Commission. And
- 16 matters regarding water quality we do take seriously, we
- 17 take serious. And issues regarding quality of service
- 18 such as described by Mr. Lindner are always an appropriate
- 19 time to communicate with the Commission regarding those
- 20 issues whether there is a rate case or not. So there does
- 21 not need to be a rate case before the Commission.
- 22 And this goes for any utility regulated by the
- 23 Commission, electric, natural gas, water, telephone. We
- 24 are in the business of, as I stated, providing reliable
- 25 utility services to the people of Arizona. And bad

- 1 customer service is not acceptable and the Commission does
- 2 not accept it. And we work very hard to see that those
- 3 matters are dealt with. So I thank you for bringing those
- 4 to our attention.
- John Balzer?
- 6 MR. BALZER: Thank you very much for giving me
- 7 the opportunity to speak tonight.
- 8 Since we are on the subject of quality of
- 9 service and water, there is one other issue that I
- 10 noticed. I have been a resident of Anthem since August of
- 11 1999. So I have seen the whole growth and all the issues
- 12 that have come up since then.
- But concerning the water, I have been told by
- 14 water experts that pressure is a consideration in any kind
- 15 of water system. And that if you don't have enough
- 16 pressure in the water system, that it can be a health
- 17 hazard because water could be siphoned back into the
- 18 system, it may be polluted.
- What we experience here in Anthem, and I am
- 20 here during the day and it is very noticeable when this
- 21 happens, is you will be using a hose in your yard and all
- 22 of a sudden, the pressure just drops to almost nothing
- 23 and you are standing there with a hose as water is
- 24 dribbling out for 30 seconds, 45 seconds, whatever. And
- 25 then it will come back up again.

- 1 And I don't know the reason for it. There may
- 2 be a very good explanation. But I have never lived
- 3 anywhere where that was a problem. When someone calls
- 4 themselves a water company, they have to maintain the
- 5 pressure in the system.
- I grew up in California. We had to have
- 7 valves on our system to keep the pressure at 50 pounds,
- 8 because it was way to high coming to our lot. We don't
- 9 have that in Arizona anywhere I have lived. But like I
- 10 say, in Anthem I have experienced this quite often. I am
- 11 not out there every day but, you know, it happens quite
- 12 often when I am using the water supply. It happens in the
- 13 shower, too. But, you know, the hose is more noticeable.
- 14 So that's all I wanted right now. That's a
- 15 little different subject on the water quality.
- 16 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- 17 Commissioner Hatch-Miller?
- 18 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Mr. Balzer, has this
- 19 problem of water pressure existed since you were first
- 20 here in 1999 or is it a newer problem?
- MR. BALZER: Well, relative to the four plus
- 22 years I have been here I would say it has happened the
- 23 last two years. And I don't know what happens in the
- 24 middle of the night, but it is definitely my experience it
- 25 has been more during the daytime, middle of the day type

- 1 of thing.
- COM. HATCH-MILLER: Thank you.
- 3 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- 4 Mr. Lackmiller?
- 5 MR. LACKMILLER: Thank you for the opportunity
- 6 to address you.
- 7 I have two concerns. One is the question of
- 8 the water rates being too high. They are about almost
- 9 double of where the community that I came from previously.
- 10 And secondly, when I arrived at Anthem and started
- 11 receiving bills from the Arizona-American Water Company,
- 12 they were grossly enlarged. And I called the 800 number
- 13 in Illinois, or wherever it was, to inquire about that.
- 14 And they were charging me a fixed rate of \$16 with no
- 15 addition for the wastewater but they were charging me for
- 16 about 65 days. And I asked the lady what month has 65
- 17 days in it,
- And they corrected the bills, but after a
- 19 period of about six months. Then they finally caught up
- 20 with reality and said that my bill in fact should include
- 21 not \$2 per thousand gallons but \$4 per thousand gallons
- 22 delivered, even though most of it was going, as the
- 23 gentleman before said, to water plants. So the manager in
- 24 Illinois said that, since I lived in the new section of
- 25 Anthem, that the wastewater rates there were fixed \$16

- 1 a month, but the people who sent out the bills didn't
- 2 agree with that.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 CHMN. SPITZER: Chairman Mundell?
- 5 COM. MUNDELL: Sir, I just had a quick
- 6 question for you. I wasn't clear. Were you refunded any
- 7 money you were owed or do we need to look into that for
- 8 you? I mean obviously it is not 65 days in a month and I
- 9 don't know if they --
- 10 MR. LACKMILLER: I was able to get the bill --
- 11 COM. MUNDELL: Okay.
- MR. LACKMILLER: -- adjusted but I was calling
- 13 in each month because of an inaccurate bill.
- 14 COM. MUNDELL: I just wanted to make sure they
- 15 still didn't owe you money.
- MR. LACKMILLER: No.
- 17 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you very much.
- 18 A VOICE: I concur. I had the same problem.
- 19 CHMN. SPITZER: Was there anyone else who
- 20 wishes to speak?
- 21 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Gentleman in the back.
- 22 CHMN. SPITZER: Sir? We ask you to fill out a
- 23 slip. Oh, okay.
- MR. DeHERRERA: Thank you for letting me come
- 25 up here again. I want to back up this gentleman's, the

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- 1 one that had the problem with the customer service. I
- 2 called them on the quality of the water. And they
- 3 basically told me it wasn't their problem.
- 4 CHMN. SPITZER: It is very interesting that we
- 5 would not get that answer. I can assure you.
- 6 MR. DeHERRERA: They told me if I had a
- 7 problem with them to take it up with Anthem, with the
- 8 customer service people up here in Anthem. I called
- 9 customer service in Anthem and they were told by the water
- 10 company that this was a yearly thing. It is not a yearly
- 11 thing. I have never seen water like this in my life.
- 12 CHMN. SPITZER: Mr. Hatch-Miller?
- 13 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Mr. Herrera.
- MR. DeHERRERA: DeHerrera.
- 15 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Mr. DeHerrera, I wanted to
- 16 see if there is anyone else in the room that has a problem
- 17 with the smellly clothes after washing them. Anybody?
- 18 Great. Thank you for your show of hands.
- 19 MR. DeHERRERA: That is a definite problem. I
- 20 have two water bills, one for the American Water Company
- 21 and the water that I have to buy to drink and cook with.
- 22 I won't use this water I can tell you that. Thank you
- 23 very much.
- 24 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- Jan Samar again.

- 1 MS. SAMAR: Someone had mentioned the brown
- 2 water. One of the things I think would be helpful, when
- 3 the company is about to switch their -- and reverse the
- 4 way the water is flowing, if the company knows when it is
- 5 going to do that, could they print something in the paper.
- 6 Because I was about to throw my white clothes in the
- 7 washing machine one weekend and the water was brown. And
- 8 I thought, oh, someone is flushing the hydrant or
- 9 something. So I kept running it and running it, and it
- 10 stayed brown.
- 11 So I called the company. And I was told some
- 12 of what Mr. DeHerrera was told, wasn't really their
- 13 problem. And then I got someone else on the line and I
- 14 was told it was a yearly thing, when it goes from Lake
- 15 Pleasant out. And when it goes out into Lake Pleasant, it
- 16 changes, so twice a year we could expect this brown water.
- Well, I would ask would they please tell us
- 18 when it is going to happen so we don't ruin our clothes.
- 19 I have some towels that I can't get that brown stain out
- 20 because that load had already gone out. It might be
- 21 healthy for us to use them but they look like blazes.
- 22 CHMN. SPITZER: Okay. And I would encourage
- 23 whoever has not yet spoken who wishes to to fill out a
- 24 slip. We have Staff over here and over here with the
- 25 slips.

- 1 Shane, Shane James?
- 2 MR. JAMES: Thank you for the opportunity to
- 3 speak. I wanted to just do a follow-up comment that a
- 4 gentleman previously had said when he was discussing the
- 5 five-eighths inch meter and one-inch meter.
- I also have a one-inch meter but I am in the
- 7 park side location, I am not in the country club location.
- 8 And I also pay the same difference in rates that he does
- 9 even though I am in park side. Now, I am not sure. I pay
- 10 an extra \$13 a month. So I understand that water is paid
- 11 for based on volume, and yet I don't understand why people
- 12 with a larger meter pay more per month, because a thousand
- 13 gallons is a thousand gallons whether it goes through a
- 14 three-eighths hole or one-inch hole. So that's just what
- 15 I wanted to bring to your attention.
- 16 He made very good comments. And it is not
- 17 just a country club issue, it is also park side. And I
- 18 imagine it goes throughout the community.
- 19 CHMN. SPITZER: The issue with meters, there
- 20 is a cost for a larger meter. We live in the City of
- 21 Phoenix, our family. And we have a home in Prescott. But
- 22 in the City of Phoenix, they replaced five-eighths with a
- 23 one inch.
- We have a fairly large lot. My wife insists
- 25 on a winter lawn. And she is a native. She wants a

- l winter lawn. So they did replace that. And in Phoenix
- 2 there was no charge. So that's the good news. And it was
- 3 at our option. But it was clear when I wanted it, when
- 4 they installed it, it is more expensive. There is both
- 5 the capital and operation. So there is a cost to a bigger
- 6 meter.
- 7 In our case, and it sounds like what one of
- 8 the issues is, if you don't need a one-inch meter, you
- 9 shouldn't be forced to pay for it. So there is a reason
- 10 to pay for it. In my case it was our choice to go to the
- 11 one inch. In our case we didn't have to pay for it. I
- 12 guess the bad news is we put a winter lawn in and we have
- 13 a \$150 bill and I can't complain.
- 14 MR. JAMES: I would complain.
- 15 CHMN. SPITZER: Some people have more power in
- 16 the house.
- 17 MR. JAMES: Some people have neighbors in the
- 18 neighborhood who have been converting theirs. They have
- 19 been calling, I imagine, Arizona-American to take out one
- 20 inch and put a five-eighths. And Arizona-American I
- 21 believe is doing that at no cost for them to lower the
- 22 cost.
- 23 CHMN. SPITZER: That should be made, what the
- 24 lady talked about, Mrs. Bartsch talked about, the issue to
- 25 the extent of the water quality is an annual problem and

- 1 the issue of people that don't want a one inch shouldn't
- 2 have to pay for the 13 bucks a month, should be able to
- 3 convert to five-eighths and have that \$13 removed, these
- 4 are the types of things that we encourage companies to
- 5 send out in their monthly billings. Because that way, if
- 6 we mandate that the company take out an ad in the
- 7 newspaper, in the Arizona Republic for example, it would
- 8 be very expensive, and if we mandate it, we have to allow
- 9 for the expense of the company, and the customers would be
- 10 paying for it.
- 11 So what we look to do is have the companies
- 12 notify the customers in a way to save the customers'
- 13 money. And the monthly billing is the time to do that
- 14 type of thing in terms of annual or semiannual events
- 15 where there is bad water. Because I agree, you ought to
- 16 have notice. I agree that this issue with this size of
- 17 the meter ought to be addressed and an option of the
- 18 ratepayer, and the ratepayer shouldn't pay for the 13
- 19 bucks a month that they are not using, that they don't
- 20 need.
- 21 And there are lots of other issues that we
- 22 have ordered the company to do in billings, and that seems
- 23 to have worked pretty well.
- 24 And I would point out again that to the extent
- 25 water quality is an issue, that's an issue totally apart

- 1 from a rate case and you don't need to have a rate case in
- 2 front of the Commission for citizens to demand what they
- 3 are entitled to, which is safe, reliable utility services.
- 4 MR. JAMES: Thank you.
- 5 And another thing, I don't think it was
- 6 mentioned tonight regarding water quality. It was my
- 7 understanding, about a few months ago they actually had a
- 8 chlorinator break down at Arizona-American and that lasted
- 9 for about eight hours. And so there was a short time
- 10 period where the water was not coming in chlorinated.
- 11 They did send notices to the residents. As well it was
- 12 posted in the community center.
- But, again, how can something like that fall
- 14 along for so long without any kind of notification by
- 15 pager to someone?
- So, anyway, thank you.
- 17 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- 18 Max Plotzeneder?
- 19 MR. PLOTZENEDER: Hello. I don't -- I just
- 20 came late so I don't know if it was mentioned already
- 21 about the water quality. I have lived six years in
- 22 Anthem. And the doors are all powder coated. And that's
- 23 the most durable finish we know at the moment. And since
- 24 about two months I notice that the water we have here
- 25 turns and changes the color of wrought iron doors, and

- 1 some chemical in it which makes them turn blue. And that
- 2 has been since two months. And it takes heavy engine
- 3 grease to get it off.
- 4 So something bad is in there which is not
- 5 healthy or good for us. I don't know what it is but maybe
- 6 you can research that and see what they are using.
- 7 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you. We haven't had
- 8 comment on that. Thank you. Thank you very much.
- 9 MR. PLOTZENEDER: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 CHMN. SPITZER: The Chair will recognize
- 11 Commissioner Mayes. And maybe, if those, if there is
- 12 anybody else who has not yet spoken who wishes to.
- 13 Anybody else who has not spoken once?
- 14 A VOICE: I notice you are all drinking
- 15 bottled water.
- 16 CHMN. SPITZER: You don't know what I drink at
- 17 home. It is not water.
- 18 Mrs. Bartsch?
- MS. BARTSCH: I appreciate the fact it has
- 20 been a long evening, but you talk about customer service
- 21 and perhaps I could be of some service to you.
- When the issue of the dirty water, as the
- 23 community refers to it as was discussed among our network
- 24 and our websites and various websites here in Anthem,
- 25 consistent ly we were reading and hearing that every

- 1 customer who called was given a different answer. It is
- 2 happening because of this, it is happening because of
- 3 this, it is not really happening, you are imagining it.
- 4 When I finally called the customer service
- 5 representative, I shared those scenarios and little
- 6 anecdotal stories. I said I think, among anything else
- 7 that happened, and I think this is the point I want to
- 8 bring to the Commission, is that they failed one of the
- 9 most important requirements of any utility company, that
- 10 is communication.
- If indeed they have, whether it is 20 customer
- 12 service reps or 20,000 customer service reps, it is
- 13 important, as they say, that the script be consistent.
- 14 There is no reason why one customer should be told one
- 15 thing and another customer told something else, regardless
- 16 what the answer is, and that they acknowledge that they
- 17 failed.
- And if you would like to know the name, I
- 19 would be happy to call it to your office because I have
- 20 the notation at our home.
- 21 CHMN. SPITZER: In terms of communication with
- 22 the Commission, I would encourage that beyond this
- 23 evening. You are not, certainly not limited to this
- 24 evening.
- Mr. Blattner?

- 1 MR. BLATTNER: I appreciate the opportunity to
- 2 speak. I have a few, just a question regarding the water
- 3 meters and why there is a surcharge for a larger water
- 4 meter.
- I am a contractor. I install various sewer
- 6 water things. And isn't it just a fixed cost of the
- 7 difference in the size of the water meter or one kind of
- 8 cost, or wouldn't there be?
- 9 CHMN. SPITZER: Depending on the system, and
- 10 we have had this in rate cases and I don't want to -- I
- 11 want to be very clear I am not commenting on this
- 12 particular case, but in other cases larger meters are
- 13 generally for commercial or industrial and they take a
- 14 higher draw, and the Commission has articulated the
- 15 difference in charges between commercial and residential
- 16 and industrial uses. And that's a differentiation and
- 17 distinction in telecommunications. It is not just water.
- And then the meter size, if you had large
- 19 numbers of people in a community where the water was a
- 20 scarce resource, some communities in northern Arizona
- 21 where there is a serious scarcity, you have homeowner X
- 22 who has got a small lot with very little landscaping with
- 23 a small meter, homeowner Y next door moves in and is
- 24 drawing down the water table for a pecan grove for
- 25 example, there is sort of an equity issue. And we want to

- 1 make sure that the interests of the residential ratepayers
- 2 are given primacy. So in any rate case there are
- 3 differentiations and distinctions among size of the
- 4 meters.
- 5 MR. BLATTNER: But isn't it a question of
- 6 usage versus size of a meter? Because you can run a
- 7 million gallons through a five-eighths meter and run
- 8 a million gallons through a one-inch meter, and does it
- 9 cost more?
- 10 CHMN. SPITZER: It is part of the rate design
- 11 of the case. But theoretically, if you would have a
- 12 hundred people running a hundred times as much, the larger
- 13 the meter, the more the potential for the draw I guess is
- 14 the theory.
- MR. BLATTNER: But it really comes down to
- 16 useage.
- 17 CHMN. SPITZER: Sure.
- 18 MR. BLATTNER: And then when both residents
- 19 are side by side, why is one resident charged more for a
- 20 larger meter if the usage is the same?
- 21 CHMN. SPITZER: And that's --
- MR. BLATTNER: It is an installation problem,
- 23 not a usage.
- 24 CHMN. SPITZER: It is not in every case.
- 25 Every case is different. Each case has a different

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- 1 design, commodity charge, size of the meter.
- 2 MR. BLATTNER: Just seems to me like, it just
- 3 seems to me it is another way of getting money out of the
- 4 residents for whatever reason.
- 5 CHMN. SPITZER: What is, I think, striking to
- 6 me and something that could be addressed in a rate case is
- 7 the -- make it very plain, you shouldn't have to pay any
- 8 more than you need.
- 9 MR. BLATTNER: Correct. Should be a one lump
- 10 sum --
- 11 CHMN. SPITZER: That's the bottom line.
- 12 MR. BLATTNER: -- additional cost for the
- 13 additional cost for the meter sets.
- 14 CHMN. SPITZER: I think Commissioner Gleason
- 15 pointed out the way you set a case, you have a revenue
- 16 structure. And one set revenue structure is determined.
- 17 How you allocate the revenue structure among the various
- 18 interests is a second feature of the case.
- 19 MR. BLATTNER: Then I think the revenue
- 20 structure is incorrect, because for a resident, you know,
- 21 neighbors, one five-eighths inch, one inch meter, it is
- 22 all equal.
- 23 CHMN. SPITZER: That's something we are free
- 24 to look at.
- MR. BLATTNER: Okay.

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- 1 CHMN. SPITZER: And change is appropriate.
- Okay. The Chair will recognize Commissioner
- 3 Mayes for closing remarks.
- 4 COM. MAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- I would just like to say it has been very
- 6 informative to come out here. It has demonstrated exactly
- 7 why we do these things, which is to learn about issues
- 8 that we wouldn't otherwise learn about. I can name three
- 9 off the top of my head, is discoloration, the metering
- 10 issues, the customer service. And I think those are all
- 11 issues that may be, as the Chairman said, something we can
- 12 deal with, you know, even before the rate case, but
- 13 certainly is --
- 14 Anyway, thank you again. Again, as the
- 15 Chairman said, please feel free to contact us, any of us,
- 16 which you can do on the website. And I look forward to
- 17 talking to you again.
- 18 CHMN. SPITZER: The Chair will recognize
- 19 Commissioner Gleason.
- 20 COM. GLEASON: As far as the water is
- 21 concerned in Phoenix and at home, I drink water out of the
- 22 tap. I think it has more arsenic in it and it helps with
- 23 my amoeba.
- 24 COM. HATCH-MILLER: Again, I am Jeff
- 25 Hatch-Miller. I am the guy with the two last names.

- 1 You know, it is amazing to me. I am really
- 2 proud to be an Arizonan. I have only been here 25 years
- 3 so I am kind of a newcomer but I am really proud to be
- 4 one. But it hasn't been often I see six or 700 people in
- 5 a community come out here, a lot of them standing, maybe
- 6 200 just standing.
- 7 I know that Arizonans are willing to come out
- 8 on community issues and demand justice. As Commissioner
- 9 Mayes said, she had three issues that she had heard. And
- 10 I will agree with those three. But the one thing I heard
- 11 very clearly, you feel that the great increases being
- 12 requested are unjust.
- As I said in my opening remarks, we will work
- 14 as a Commission to make sure that we are truly basing it
- 15 on what it costs to provide you water and wastewater
- 16 services and a small but reasonable profit above that, and
- 17 that's what you will be paying. Thank you.
- 18 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you, Commissioner.
- 19 The Chair will recognize Commissioner Mundell.
- 20 COM. MUNDELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 21 As I said earlier, it is really beneficial to
- 22 have these public comment meetings. We talked about
- 23 different issues and I wrote down a number of them, you
- 24 know, billing problems, quality of water concerns, size of
- 25 meters, communication problems and notice issues.

- 1 So again, as we have indicated, those issues
- 2 can be dealt with outside of a rate case. I mean those
- 3 are ongoing, everyday issues that we can deal with. And I
- 4 want to give you, first of all, the consumer services
- 5 number, (602) 542-4251, 542-4251. Of course you can call
- 6 any of our individual offices. But that is the major,
- 7 that is our consumer service line. And we have dedicated
- 8 staff that will try and solve the problems.
- And, additionally, the hearing is going to be
- 10 scheduled for December 4th. And remember, I want to let
- 11 you know, if you can't make that hearing, to sit in and
- 12 listen to the listen line. We have a listen line,
- 13 (602) 542-0222, 542-0222. It is a listen line where you
- 14 can listen to the proceedings at your home and hear the
- 15 testimony about what is happening on this case.
- So, again, I think it is very beneficial.
- 17 Like I said, I heard a number of issues that I would have
- 18 not known about if we hadn't had this public comment
- 19 session. It has given me ideas for questions to ask at
- 20 the hearing. And that's why we hold these comment
- 21 sessions in the communities that are impacted by our
- 22 decision. So I look forward to hearing from you and also
- 23 making a fair decision.
- 24 CHMN. SPITZER: Thank you.
- I would like to thank all of you for your

- 1 participation and, to those who have remained, your great
- 2 patience with the process.
- I wanted to acknowledge John Seyton from the
- 4 community who set up the public address system that we
- 5 have the benefit here. And the folks along here are the
- 6 Commission Staff. And I would like to thank them as well
- 7 for coming here. And they are not the elected officials.
- 8 They are the ones that make us look good, spending the
- 9 time away from their families. It is a service from the
- 10 State of Arizona not often recognized in public employees,
- 11 and we appreciate it.
- 12 And I think, as has been pointed out, the
- 13 Staff, the Commission in terms of the rate case, you are
- 14 aware of the position the Staff has taken. And, again, I
- 15 am from the private sector but oftentimes we neglect and
- 16 overlook the service of state employees. After 911 I
- 17 think we take a little bit different view of our armed
- 18 forces and fire and police. And I think that should
- 19 extend to all those public services such as those that are
- 20 here this evening.
- 21 My final comment is the two, two comments on
- 22 the process. We had a hearing, a final -- open meeting on
- 23 the matter involving Arizona Public Service Company. And
- 24 because of the open meeting law, we don't communicate with
- 25 each other. We do not deliberate in secret. There are no

- 1 secret deals. This is not like other organizations.
- 2 Everything is done in public and we don't know how it is
- 3 going to turn out when we bang down the gavel.
- I did not know during the meeting how the case
- 5 would turn out. I think all five would agree it was a
- 6 deliberate process and positive process. And I think, had
- 7 you been seeing us, you would have been proud of the
- 8 process whether you agree or disagree with the end of the
- 9 case.
- I had comments throughout to that effect
- 11 during the two years I served on the Commission. People
- 12 come up to me, they said, you know, someone, a lawyer in
- 13 the case, the company didn't win the case, but the lawyer
- 14 said, you know, we didn't win the case but we had a fair
- 15 hearing.
- And that's what justice and democracy are
- 17 about. Rest assured we are not a rubber stamp for this
- 18 company or any company. We have had -- some of you may
- 19 have been familiar with a company beaten up in the
- 20 newspaper over our treatment of one telecommunications
- 21 company that I won't mention, who didn't get everything
- 22 that they wanted, and they shouldn't. And we are willing
- 23 to, even though they are very powerful, very politically
- 24 connected obviously to control some editorials, that
- 25 doesn't matter, since I have been on this Commission, we

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have done what is in the public interest.
1
                And we discussed a lot of the legalities.
2
                                                            Wе
    had an intervenor discuss some very detailed issues
3
    regarding expenses, regarding rate of return, regarding
4
5
    rate base. We have had discussions how we can figure the
    rates once we set the revenues. It is very simple what
 6
7
    our job actually is. It is about justice. And justice
    will be served in this case I am very confident.
8
9
                Thank you very much. We appreciate all of
10
    you.
11
                (The proceedings were concluded at 7:56 p.m.)
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    STATE OF ARIZONA
                           SS.
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    COUNTY OF MARICOPA )
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7
              I, COLETTE E. ROSS, Certified Court Reporter No.
    50658 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the
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9
    accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the
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11
    foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
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Information for Public Comment Meeting

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Name 3526 W MO ISE CT		
Street Address		
City State		Zip
I WOULD like to speak.] I do <u>NOT</u> want to	s cneek
Comments:	, to 1101 want to	. speak.
** THREE MINUT	E SPEAKING LIM	IIT **
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Information for Pul	olic Comment Meet	ing
PLEASE PR	INT CLEARLY	
Date //- 05-03 Name //M BLATINER	Telephone No.	623-551-9693
Street Address 39617 N. MAJEST	Y CT.	
City ANTHEM State A	2	Zip 8508 %
I WOULD like to speak.] I do <u>NOT</u> want to	speak.
Comments: COST OF METERS	IS A FIXE	O COST O
THAT SHOULD BE INCLE	DED IN COS	TOF HOME.
** ***********************************	י פוסדי א זצוויאנטי ד דא א	(T/T) **

Date 11 - 03 - 03 Telephone No. 551 - 9577
Name Max PLOTZENEDER
Street Address 3530 W. Steinbeck Cf.
City Anflow State A2 Zip 85056
I <u>WOULD</u> like to speak. I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 11/5/2003 Telephone No. 623-55/-5489
Name Shane James
Street Address 2820 W. Adverture
City An Them State #2 zip 85086
I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments: about 1" meter and rate differen
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

Date	Nov 5, 200	9 3	Telephone No.	623/640-	0847
Name	Russ Lock	miller			
Street A	Address 3611 W	1. Denali	br		
City _	Antlern	_ State/	42	Zip 86336	
V	I <u>WOULD</u> like to spe	ak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want t	o speak.	
Comme	ents: Wate	rates i	too Righ		
, ·	** THR	EE MINUTE	SPEAKING LIN	AIT **	
•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				
n mile tambib debase and	Parent service and assessment assessment	Сътрания этом мусска, превоз		ELIT MAR TRANSPORT	
	Inform	nation for Publ	ATION COM ic Comment Mee		
Date	11-5-03			623 879	73144
*	JOHN 13	**			
Street A	ddress Z940	1 Wit	EASTMA	NDR.	
	ANTHEM		1 ::	Zip 850	36
	WOULD like to spea	`\	I do <u>NOT</u> want to	o speak.	
Comme	nts: Water	Seri	nce G	JUALITY	**
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
•	** THR	EE MINUTE	SPEAKING LIM	IIT **	

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 11/05/03 Telephone No. (623) 55773557
Name RICHARD LINONER
Street Address 41402 No Congressimel
City An THE State Dr Zip Brogs
I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments: ABOUT April American
Water Shur-OFF policy-
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date Novombor 5, 2003 Telephone No. 623-55/1526
Name Frank J GIVIMMelmann
Street Address 42441 Ni Crass Timbers CT

City Anthem State AZ Zip 85086

I WOULD like to speak.

I do NOT want to speak.

Comments: Acquest to make Comments at the Outs of 1 f possible to help set the tone for Residents as Chair of Association fin Comments.

Three MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT**

Fin Comments.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 11/5/03 Telephone No. 55/-0332
Name Joney Bontsch
Street Address 2453 W Shadow Glen Ct
City Anthon State 472 Zip 85086
I do NOT want to speak.
Comments: Accountibility to quality and
comments: Accountibility to quality and
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Information for Public Comment Meeting PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date
Name CARL YOUNG
Street Address 3203 Steinbeck DR.
City ANTHEM State AZ Zip 85086
Cally State 1 1
I would like to speak regarding: GAS or ELECTRIC

THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date $\sqrt{6V \cdot 5}$ 2003 Telephone No.
Name Janice M. Samar
Street Address 3122 W. Spirit Dr.
City Anthom State Az Zip 85086
I do NOT want to speak.
Comments: How did the water co- arrive a
the need to raise the rates as the
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT ** Proposed ?
THOM. MINOTE DIEMENTO DUMIT
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 11/5/03 Telephone No. 43 551 8244
Name JERRY GREVEN
Street Address 42035 N. CROOKED STICK
City AWTHEM State AZ Zip 95086
I WOULD like to speak. I do NOT want to speak.
Comments: it wis about profits + 100% more
Than Max on a break concident

** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date	Telephone No. 623-55/-5002
Name RAYRELLY	
Street Address 2360 W FIRET	
City Awntem State F	72 Zip S1-056
LIWOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments: READY,	1 do <u>110 1</u> Wall to speak.
** THREE MINUTE	SPEAKING LIMIT **
	ATION COMMISSION lic Comment Meeting
	NT CLEARLY
Date 11/5/2005 Name JCH 18CACC	Telephone No. 557 93 S
Name JCFG [SCACK	
Street Address 3835 W. White	
City Notten State F	12 zip <u>3528 6</u>
I WOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:	

** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

Information for Public Comment Meeting

Date 10-5-03	Telephone No. 602.5737698
Name Mony DeHerrers	
Street Address 3526 W- Marse C	
City AnThem State M	7L Zip 85086
I WOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:	
** THREE MINUTE	SPEAKING LIMIT **
•	ATION COMMISSION lic Comment Meeting
<u>PLEASE PRI</u>	NT CLEARLY
Date 1/5/03	Telephone No. <u>551-1300</u>
Name MARTHA GOAD	
Street Address 41916 NOAK	LAND CI
City ANTHEM State A	Z zip 85086
I WOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:	

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date H/5/03 Telephone No. 623-551
Name JM JUNUER
Street Address 42203 No Stune Much
City Antley State AZ Zip
I WOULD like to speak. I do NOT want to speak. Comments:
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date Telephone No
Name Monica Boinblia
Street Address 3012 1 N: May Sty Mail
City State Zip
I <u>WOULD</u> like to speak. I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:

		•		
	PLEASE PR	INT CLEARI	$\underline{\mathbf{Y}}$	
Date Nov 5, 20	003	Telephone N	0. 623-55	1-1225
Name Bill GILE	pert			
Street Address 4060	7 N. Regul	Sic		
City Anthem	State A	8	_ zip <u>8508</u>	6-1588
I WOULD like to	speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> wan	t to speak.	
Comments: WAS	A REASON	Given	that the	GNITHEM
INDEPENDENT AT	ler System	WAS Com	aned WITH	ANOTHEZ
INDEPENDENT AT FOR PURPE	HREE MINUTE	= RATE E SPEAKING I	SETTI IMIT **	NG 7
		,		
	नुनावश्चात्कः अञ्चलनाकृतः सम्बन्धाः ११	त्रभागभ <u>्यात्</u> यसम्बद्धाः स्थानसम्बद्धाः ।	The standard of the standard of	
ARIZON	A CORPOR	ATION COI	MMISSION	
111 011 011		1i - Clausens aust M.		

Date 11/5/03		No. 623-55	1-2166
Name DAVID HARDEN			
Street Address 407/2 N. A	pollo Way		
City Anthem State	AZ	Zip <u>8</u> 50	26
DWOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> v	vant to speak.	
Comments: SCC ATTOCKE	d Question	<u> </u>	
** THREE M	INUTE SPEAKING	G LIMIT **	

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Telephone No. 623-551-376

Name LARRY EVAUS
Street Address 2746 W Plum Hollow
City Anthon State AZ Zip 85086.
I WOULD like to speak.
I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Information for Public Comment Meeting
Date /-5-03 Telephone No. 623-55/-376/ Name Willing From How And Street Address 77+6W. Plum Hollow Mr. City Mem State Z zip 85086
I WOULD like to speak. I do NOT want to speak. Comments:
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

Information for Public Comment Meeting

Date //-5 - 0.5 Telephone No. 625 337-7783
Name GHARLES A CAPLISE
Street Address 3435 W WEBSTA
City Anthon State AZ Zip \$5086
I <u>WOULD</u> like to speak. I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments: I Am AGAINST ANY INCREASE
Comments: I Am AGAINST ANY INCREASE IN OUR WATER & SOUR RATES
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 115/03 Telephone No. 623 551 1037
Name DAURD SPERANZA
Street Address 41905 NOAK CAND CT
City ANTHEN State Zip 85086
I <u>WOULD</u> like to speak. I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 5 NOV 03 Telephone No. 551 0027
Name BAKAS, AC
Street Address 43209 N NMIONAL TRAIL
City NNTHOM State AZ Zip 85086
I WOULD like to speak. I do NOT want to speak.
Comments: DONT WNOT INCROSSE IN
WATER RAFES
** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
Information for Public Comment Meeting
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Date 11/5/03 Telephone No. 123-557-3375
Name Acar Strant
Street Address 2334 4 Fine THAN WAG
City Arthur State AZ Zip State 2
I WOULD like to speak. I do NOT want to speak. Comments:

Information for Public Comment Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date ///5/63	Telephone No. 623-551-9446
Name Mary Hobin	
Street Address 3502 W.Pk	ymouth Dr.
City Anthem State	AZ zip 85086
I WOULD like to speak.	I do <u>NOT</u> want to speak.
Comments:	

** THREE MINUTE SPEAKING LIMIT **